IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 7, 8, and 13 and CANCEL claims 12 and 14 in accordance with the following:

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A method for detecting at least one of position and surface structure of <u>a single electric component</u> ~~an object~~, comprising:

placing the <u>component</u> ~~object~~ immediately above an array of capacitive sensors, each having an outer surface with a lateral extent of at most half of a lateral extent of the <u>component</u> ~~object~~; and

electronically evaluating a capacitive disturbance of the outer surface of at least one individual sensor caused by said placing<u>,</u>

<u>wherein said evaluating detects</u> ~~to detect~~ at least one of the position and surface structure of ~~a single electric component~~ <u>terminal pins of the electric component; and</u>

<u>wherein said terminal pins protrude from a body of the electric component</u>.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising forming an image of the <u>component</u> ~~object~~.

9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the array is a capacitive fingerprint sensor formed of a semiconductor.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 7 ~~12~~,
wherein said evaluating detects the position and the orientation of the terminal pins of the electric component in an automatic component mounting machine that has a machine tool and a component provider, and
wherein the array is integrated in at least one of the component provider and the machine tool.

14. (cancelled)